GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:641
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
No Detention Policy
Gopal Dr. K.;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Meena Shri Harish Chandra;Raj Dr. Udit;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "No Detention Policy" has become contentious issue due to deteriorating learning outcomes of students;
(b) if so, whether the Government is reviewing to scrap the policy considering its adverse consequences and recommendation of the State Governments and if so, the details thereof;
(c) if not, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether it is a fact that Vasudev Devnani Committee has recommended that a child should be given a chance before detention from class Fifth onwards and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government proposes to bring amendments in the Right to Education Act in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a) to (e): Section 16 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 stipulates that 'No child admitted in a school shall be held back in any class or expelled from school till the completion of elementary education'. Thus, the policy covers elementary stage of schooling covering classes 1 to 8.
In pursuance of a resolution adopted in the 59th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 6th June, 2012, a Sub-Committee was constituted for assessment of implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in the context of No-Detention provision in the RTE Act, 2009. The Sub-Committee submitted its report in August, 2014. The report of the Sub-Committee was placed before CABE in its meeting held on 19.8.2015, wherein it was decided to request all States/UTs to share their views on the No-Detention policy. 28 States have shared their views on the No Detention policy out of which 23 States have suggested modification to the No Detention policy. The summary of the responses received from State Governments on No-detention policy is annexed.
In pursuance of the decision taken in the CABE Committee meeting held on 19.8.2016, another Sub-Committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof. Vasudev Devnani, Minister of Education, Government of Rajasthan was constituted on 26.10.2015 inter-alia, to review the feedback received from States/UTs on the 'No-Detention' policy. The recommendations of the Committee are as under:
(i) There should be an examination at Class 5. It should be left to the States and UTs to decide whether this exam will be at the school, block, District or State Level.
(ii) If a child fails then allow the child an opportunity to improve. There should be additional instruction provided to children and the child should be given an opportunity to sit for another exam. If the child is unable topass the exam in the second chance, then detain the child.
(iii) At Classes 6 and 7, there should be a school based exam for students.
(iv) At Class 8, there should be an external exam. In case the child fails, the child should be given additional instruction and then appear for an improvement exam. If fails again then detain.
The matter regarding amendment to Section 16 of the RTE Act, 2009 is under the active consideration of this Ministry.
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